

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, February 23. 1712.

IN the uncertainty of our Foreign News, about the Death of the King of *France*, I have but one Reason not to believe what is so commonly Reported, and that is, That I do not see *Europe* in a Condition for such a Deliverance— But however, be it so or not, one Thing I cannot but observe, which is this; That as without a Concert and Union among the Confederates, as to their Demands upon *France*, we could have no Good Peace, so, unless such a Concert and Union be maintain'd, they will never be able to make the just Advantages of such a Conjunction.

Without doubt, the Death of the *Hopes*

and Fortune of *France*, the *Dauphin*, has been a sensible Wound to the Old King, and as it is so, I mean as to his Loss, as it was his immediate Flesh and Blood, for which, as a Man, one can hardly forbear some Pity; it must be so, as it gives him a dismal View of leaving the Weight of such a Government, upon an Infant of five Year Old; I say, such a Government, not with Respect to the Potent Enemies of its Greatness, which now surround it, or with Respect to the ill Condition it is in after such a Terrible War, to defend itself, as with Respect to the constant Brigues and Intrigues, which on all such Occasions have been

been the Practice of the *French* Court more than in any other Nation in the World, and in which, three Queen-Mothers have been remarkable Agents, to the Ruin of that Powerful Kingdom; viz. The first, *Katherine de Medicis*, who managed that Government with wonderful Craft, during the Effeminate Reigns of *Francis II.*, *Charles IX.*, and *Henry III.*, her three Sons: Next, *Mary de Medicis*, in the Minority and Simplicity of *Lewis XIII.* and the Third, with the Government of a Cardinal, in the Minority of *Lewis XIV.* What Havock they made, what Confusions and Miseries they brought Things into, History gives a large Account, particularly *Davila*, *Meyeray*, the History of the *Edicts of Nans*, and *Monsieur Vassour*, to whom I refer the Reader: These Things, I say, must needs reduce *France* to Terrible Circumstances, and the View of these Things must give a sad Prospect to the King of *France*, if he be alive.

But as to us, as I have often Exhorted, *the less, how much in vain!* that laying aside Party Antipathies, we would apply ourselves to cultivate a right Understanding at Home, and a perfect Concert with our Allies Abroad; so now above all Times is a Juncture, when such a Union and such a Concert is so necessary, methinks it should have some Influence upon us.

Nothing can Robb us of the Advantages, which Providence, by this Juncture of the *French* Mortification, puts into our Hand, to bring them, even without Fighting, to a Fair and Honourable Peace; but a Division and Breach of Concert among ourselves on one Side, not willing this or that Power should be made too Great, and others Less, and too much expos'd; on the other Side, willing such and such Powers should Engross too much, and be made too Powerful; and so propagating intestine Jealousies among one another, break off, and cast away the happy Minute, in which the Liberties of *Europe* might be Establish'd.

What an unhappy Circumstance will it be for *Europe*, that when *France*, suppose it

Reduc'd by this Blow to a Necessity of accepting such Terms of Peace as the Confederates shall think fit to give him, these Confederates should not be able to Agree among themselves, what they shall Demand and what to Insist upon.

The ~~the~~ Demands which the *French* Ministers at *Utrecht* have had the Folly to make, in order to a Peace, will, no doubt, be reduc'd to another Stile, as well as another Scheme, and we may have what we please, if we can but Agree what to ask; but I fear, by what I see of the Temper now among us, that if the *French* Court were to send You, the Confederates, *Charles Blinche*, you will hardly Agree what to take, much less what to ask; for the Emperor would have all, the *Dutch* would have some, the *Portuguese* too much; some would be for this, some for that, and as far as I can see, all would be for our having *Nothing at all*; a Thing, in which I confess, I think, our Allies have all along fail'd of doing us Justice, considering the Share we have had in the War, and therein been every Unjust to us.

Nothing but a Concert and Agreement among ourselves, can either carry on this War, or obtain a Good Peace: If we cannot tell what to ask for in a Treaty, how shall we know what to fight for in a War? If we cannot Agree what to ask when it may be given, how shall we Agree to divide what we may Conquer? — Let me descend but to one particular, What has been the Occasion that *Dunkirk* has never been Attack'd during the late War? We all know King *William* design'd it instead of *Namur*, and to that purpose, took the Forts of *Furnes* and *Winoxberg*; and why has *Dunkirk* as well as *Lisler* it has not been altogether so much the Strength of the Place which has put us by it; *less*, that it was not worth our taking, *least of all*, that it has not been a pernicious destructive Place to us all: But could you ever Agree who should have it if it were taken? Would we be willing to let the *Dutch* have it? Would the *Dutch* and *Spaniards* be willing

we should have it? Would you Demolish
my wonder would be, putting it into the
Hands of France again to Fortify it? And
all Agreed, that it was not worth while, to
the neither one or other could to Attack
it; And to the French have kept it undisturb'd.
I know the Cure is Parallel to the Ven; for
thus will it be in the Affairs of Peace; if you
had the Spanish Monarchy now, Who would
you give it to? It's certain, you would
fall out about it: A Nation is brought to
a very unhappy Circumstance, that having
Confederates Allied to them, and an Enem-
y Reduc'd to a willingness to make Peace
with them; cannot resolve how to make
Peace, or how to make War.

I Nor do I make any Question, but that
 the *Hopes France* has conceiv'd from this
 Treaty, and the Ridiculous Haughti-
 ness of their Proposals is built upon
 this Foundation; they see the Divisions,
 they see the Emperor resolv'd to part
 with nothing of the whole *Spanish Monar-
 chy*; they know the Confederates will never
 yield to have him possess it all, and that
 they should be Distracted if they did: They
 are not without their Emisseries in *Holland*,
 to make them jealous of Designs against
 them in *England*, nor in *England*, to give
 the *Dutch* very good Occasion for it: They
 prompt the Confederates to be willing to
 make a Peace without granting *England* any
 Thing for all her Expence and Loss;
 and they prompt the *English* to Quarrel both
 their Confederates Abroad, and their United
 Friends at Home; I am no more for having
 our Allies Impose upon us, than another;
 and I am sensible we have been very ill us-
 ed; but that Temper that some would
 promote among us, of singling out the
Dutch above all the rest, as if none had
 been Concern'd in it but they, or that they
 had been more deficient than the rest, is
 the Effect of a quite different Principle, and
 an Extreme the other Way; I remember,
Dance the Dutch was an Old Phrase in F-
 ashion under a Popish Reign, when the com-
 ing of the Prince of *Orange* was in View;
 those that revive it now, and with a War

with the Dutch are Friends to a Popish Pretender, and aim at a French Revolution.

The Government and the Parliament may be in the Right, to Examine who has done well by us and who ill; their Design may be to show us the true Reason why the War has been so long and so heavy upon our Hands, and to bring our Allies into a Power to do Justice; that the War be carried on; if it may be done in just Proportion of their Charge; who are to get so much by it, as well as ours; who are to get so little; if any Man has farther Designs than these, they are such as no good Man can wish to see them gratified in.

But when I quire of these People, who are so forward to cry out upon the Dutch, and cry up a War with the Dutch, of a secret Plot and Design, to have it believ'd that such a Thing is really carrying on by some in the Government, and by the Parliament, and this added to former Projects of that kind, has its unhappy Ends to answer; for the Managers of publick Affairs can never be charg'd with this, but with the strongest Suggestion of Treason against the Queen, the Revolution, and the Constitution; nor that Quarrelling the Dutch is Treason, mistake me not on either side neither; but there seems an Impossibility at this Juncture, that a Notion of a War with the Dutch can be Entertain'd upon any other Suggestion or Supposition, but that of opening a Door to France, and by Consequence to the Pretender, by breaking in upon the Confederacy; but will such People see how impossible it is to have this be our View, I mean Parliamenterarily, when we are assur'd her Majesty has but just now made a New League with the Dutch, for Preservation and Guarantee of any Treaty that shall now be made with the Enemy: What Mad Things Robert Men may drive at, who think now they are able to carry all before them, I will not answer for.

1. The State of our late Parliament Resolves can be understood to mean no more, than to tell you all, That the

the true Reason why this War had not been long ago ended, has been the Deficiency of the Confederates, in their Quota's and Proportions, and tells you in particular where they are, and whose Fault it has been.

1. That if these *Quota's* and *Proportions* had been paid duly, and the Forces Furnish'd, there had been no more need to Debate about carrying on the War, or making a Peace, but *all had been over long ago.*

3. That a *Treaty of Peace* is most Reasonable for us now, if it were only to let our Allies see, That if they will

not do their part we must be Fools no longer.

4. And that if they will have us make no Peace, but the War must go on, they must be more just and more Positivel for the future.

If these are the true Reasons, let any object against the Justice of them if they can: What is more than this, what aims at falling out with the *Dutch*, breaking the Confederacy, and basely complying with the *French* in Dishonourably Separating from a common and just Interest, is all *Popish*, *Jacobite*, and Abominable, let it fall where it will.

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